

Citation Evidence Report

EB-2 NIW Petition — National Interest Waiver

Matter of Dhanasar · Prong 2 (well-positioned)

Lidyane do Valle Camelo

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Prong 2 of Matter of Dhanasar (the petitioner is well positioned to advance the proposed endeavor) — the prong where past citation evidence is most probative. It is a drafting aid for the petitioner’s counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

21 Citing papers mapped	21 Citation edges	3 Home papers mapped	19 h-index (GS)
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Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

Known limitations – counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

95.2% independent of 21 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	20
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim – Contribution 1

The researcher established the reliability of the MacArthur scale of subjective social status within the Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health, providing a validated tool for epidemiological research.

The researcher’s contribution centers on validating the MacArthur scale of subjective social status for use in the Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health (ELSA-Brasil). This work, published in BMC Public Health in 2012, serves as the foundational piece for this line of inquiry, with no subsequent follow-up papers by the same researcher identified in the provided data.

This line of work appears to address the critical need for culturally and linguistically appropriate instruments to measure subjective social status in Brazilian populations. By focusing on reliability within a major longitudinal cohort, the research likely filled a methodological gap, enabling more accurate assessment of social determinants of health in this specific demographic context.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its substantial citation record, with 324 citations indicating widespread adoption. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has been broadly utilized by the global scientific community rather than being confined to the researcher’s immediate network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6

CORE PAPER

[Reliability of the MacArthur scale of subjective social status - Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health \(ELSA-Brasil\)](#)

2012 · BMC Public Health · 324 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 174 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 5% of Sociology papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Barriers and facilitators of adherence to social distancing recommendations during COVID-19 among a large international sample of adults. (2020)	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—
2	College students’ literacy, ChatGPT activities, educational outcomes, and trust from a digital divide perspective (2024)	University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	—
3	COVID-19 and Health Information Seeking Behavior: Digital Health Literacy Survey amongst University Students in Pakistan (2021)	Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, University of the Punjab	Germany, Pakistan	—
4	Social Inequalities and Depressive Symptoms in Adults: The Role of Objective and Subjective Socioeconomic Status. (2017)	Robert Koch Institute	Germany	—
5	Positive parenting improves multiple aspects of health and well-being in young adulthood (2019)	Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, University of Guelph	Canada, United States	—
6	Associations of nature contact with emotional ill-being and well-being: the role of emotion regulation. (2024)	Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Oregon Health & Science University, Stanford University	United States	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* – ones that substantively build on the work (S2’s isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) – the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 2

Claim – Contribution 2

The researcher provided seminal evidence linking sedentary leisure time to food consumption patterns among Brazilian adolescents using the 2009 PeNSE survey.

The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2012 study published in Cad Saude Publica that examined the relationship between sedentary leisure time and food consumption among Brazilian adolescents. This work utilized data from the Brazilian National School-Based Adolescent Health Survey (PeNSE) conducted in 2009. As no follow-up papers by the same researcher are listed, this single publication stands as the core contribution in this specific line of inquiry.

This line of work appears to address the need for population-level data connecting lifestyle behaviors, specifically sedentary activities, with dietary habits in a large adolescent cohort. By leveraging the extensive PeNSE dataset, the research likely filled a gap in understanding how leisure-time inactivity correlates with nutritional intake in Brazil, offering a foundational reference for public health assessments.

The significance of this work is evidenced by its citation record, with 105 citations indicating substantial uptake by the scientific community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the findings have been widely adopted and built upon by scholars outside the researcher’s immediate network, underscoring the broad impact and utility of the data presented.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 6 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Sedentary leisure time and food consumption among Brazilian adolescents: the Brazilian National School-Based Adolescent Health Survey \(PeNSE\), 2009](#)

2012 · Cad Saude Publica · 105 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Socioeconomic Correlates of Sedentary Behavior in Adolescents: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. (2017)	University of Queensland	Australia	—
2	Prevalence of excessive screen time and TV viewing among Brazilian adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis (2019)	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)	Brasil	Influential
3	Higher screen time is associated with overweight, poor dietary habits and physical inactivity in Brazilian adolescents, mainly among girls. (2016)	UNESP Universidade Estadual Paulista, Universidade Federal da Paraíba	Brazil	—
4	Dietary patterns associated with overweight among Brazilian adolescents (2018)	University of Sao Paulo	Brazil	—
5	Prevalence and correlates of screen time among Brazilian adolescents: findings from a country-wide survey. (2018)	Norwegian School of Sports Science, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul - Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre	Brazil, Norway	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
6	Comportamento sedentário em crianças e adolescentes brasileiros: revisão sistemática (2016)	Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

Contribution 3

Claim – Contribution 3

The researcher advanced the assessment of health-related quality of life among elderly populations residing in high-health-vulnerability regions, providing critical baseline data for public health interventions in underserved urban areas.

The researcher’s contribution centers on a 2016 study examining health-related quality of life in elderly residents of a high-health-vulnerability region in Belo Horizonte. This work stands as a foundational piece in the scholar’s portfolio, addressing a specific demographic and geographic context that is often underrepresented in broader health metrics.

This line of work appears to address the gap in understanding how severe environmental and social vulnerabilities impact the well-being of aging populations in specific Brazilian urban settings. By focusing on a region defined by high health vulnerability, the research likely provided novel insights into the intersection of socioeconomic factors and geriatric health outcomes, offering a targeted perspective distinct from general population studies.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its citation record, with 82 citations indicating substantial uptake by the academic community. Notably, 100% of the classified citing papers originate from independent researchers, suggesting that the work has resonated beyond the scholar’s immediate institutional circle and has been adopted by external experts to inform their own investigations into public health and gerontology.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 8

CORE PAPER

[Qualidade de vida relacionada à saúde em idosos residentes em região de alta vulnerabilidade para saúde de Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais](#)

2016 · 82 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Evaluation of lifestyle and quality of life in the elderly: a literature review (2018)	Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora	Brasil	—
2	Avaliação do estilo e qualidade de vida em idosos: uma revisão de literatura (2018)	—	—	—
3	Oral Health and Related Quality of Life in Older People: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (2021)	Tabriz University of Medical Sciences	Iran	—
4	Association between frailty and family functionality on health-related quality of life in older adults. (2020)	René Rachou Institute, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Brazil, United States	—

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
5	Social representations of older adults regarding quality of life (2017)	Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro	Brazil	—
6	Health-Related Quality of Life and Associated Factors: Regional Differences Among Oldest-Old in Brazil . (2022)	Universidade de São Paulo, Universidade Estadual da Paraíba (UEPB)	Brazil	—
7	Analysis of risk factors for falls among institutionalized elderly persons (2019)	Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre	Brasil	—
8	Health-related quality of life among Jewish older persons in Mexico and its determinants . (2020)	National Institute of Geriatrics	Mexico	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column flags citations Semantic Scholar identifies as *influential* — ones that substantively build on the work (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015) — the “built on / relied upon” pattern the AAO credits. Counsel should quote the citing text for the strongest of these.

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health	United States	—	2
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul	Brazil	SCImago #1267 · THE 601–800 · QS =691	2
Universidade de São Paulo	Brazil	SCImago #99 · THE 201–250 · QS 108	2
Oregon Health & Science University	United States	SCImago #689 · THE 351–400	1
Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora	Brasil	SCImago #5175 · THE 1501+	1
University of Sao Paulo	Brazil	THE 201–250	1
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	SCImago #206 · THE =41	1
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences	Iran	SCImago #2518 · THE 601–800	1
Harvard University	United States	SCImago #4 · THE =5 · QS 5	1
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)	Brasil	SCImago #1267 · THE 601–800 · QS =691	1
UNESP Universidade Estadual Paulista	Brazil	—	1
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul - Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre	Brazil	—	1
Norwegian School of Sports Science	Norway	—	1
René Rachou Institute, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ)	Brazil	—	1
Universidade Estadual da Paraíba (UEPB)	Brazil	SCImago #8362	1

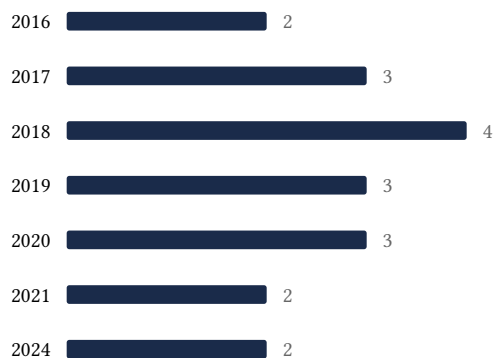
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Brazil	8
United States	5
Brasil	3
Germany	2
Norway	1
Pakistan	1
Iran	1
Canada	1
Australia	1
Mexico	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).

- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** — persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Reliability of the MacArthur scale of subjective social status - Brazilian Longitudinal Study of Adult Health (ELSA-Brasil)	6	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 2	Sedentary leisure time and food consumption among Brazilian adolescents: the Brazilian National School-Based Adolescent Health Survey (PeNSE), 2009	6	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)
Contribution 3	Qualidade de vida relacionada à saúde em idosos residentes em região de alta vulnerabilidade para saúde de Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais	8	Dhanasar — Prong 2 (well-positioned)